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SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SONIC
SUPER SPECIAL
1ST ISSUE
SPAZ

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

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Dr. Eggman is capturing dozens of innocent animals and using them to power his evil robots! It's up to the blue blur himself to save the day. Can Sonic put an end to Eggman's mayhem?

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A duo of assassins, a super badnik, and a crazy evil twin? What kind of birthday presents are these?!

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It's time to take down Eggman once and for all! The Freedom Fighters and the Chaotix combine their forces to make the ultimate team, but will it be enough to stop the evil genius?!

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1 OCTOBER 2011

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STORY: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: BREAKDOWNS:
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN PATRICK "SPAL" SPAZIANTE
COLORS: MATT HERMS PENCIL FINISHES: TRACY YARDLEY
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

BIRTHDAY BASH PART I & II
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INKS: JIM AMASH LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
COLORS: JASON JENKINS

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

KNOCKING ON EGGMAN'S DOOR & TURN ABOUT IS FAIR PLAY
STORY: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY
INKS: JIM AMASH & LETTERS: TERRAE DAVIDSON &
TERRY AUSTIN JOHN WORKMAN
COLORS: MATT HERMS

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE

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SONIC GRAMS PRESENTS

HEY KIDS!

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WELCOME!

As if Sonic's 20th Anniversary celebration couldn't get any cooler, here comes the brand new Sonic Super Special magazine! Here's your chance to get caught up on the Sonic Comics with a selection of cool stories, the latest Sonic News, and (best of all) your chance to let us know what YOU think with a double-sized letters column! So keep them letters comin'!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Before I ask my questions I just want to say my friend and I are the biggest Sonic fans in history!

Sweet! That's what we like to hear!

We love your video games and comics! Okay first question:
1) Why is Shadow considered a bad guy? He's the best character!

Shadow is really more of an "anti-hero," he's not quite villain but he's a bit more hard-core than your average hero!

2) Why aren't any of the characters like Antoine, Bunnie Rabbot, Manic, Sonia, Sally, etc. in the Sonic games too? That would be WAY past cool!

For now those characters live exclusively in the comic books! But hey, if you've really got a bivalve in your bonnet about seeing Archie-Sonic characters pop up in the games, make sure you let Sega know!

3) Why did Antoine call us "potato couches"? He's a strange one isn't he?

Ah yes, don't mind Antoine, sometimes he doesn't know the correct phrase for what he's trying to say! I see you're enjoying the character fan mail segment on the blogs at archiecomics.com - who else is diggin' 'em out there? Write in and let us know!

Yours Truly,
Hannah R.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

P.S. The comics ROCK!

Thanks for reading, Hannah!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Heya, Another of your huge

SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY

fans just writing off to you guys! Along with a few questions.

Fire Away!

1) I am wondering if we will ever get a re-release of the Princess Sally, Tails or Sonic Quest Mini-series in a graphic novel form soon? Like maybe in the upcoming Sonic Selects per-chance?

That's the plan! Whether they wind up in a Select or not is TBD, keep your eyes open to ArchieComics.com for updates!

2) This one may seem like a stretch, but maybe in a future Sonic Universe, you guys could tackle an Adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog-type story. I already saw some of the quotes used in past issues along with the SSSSS Squad. Maybe make a Sonic Universe using them?

You may have to settle for the odd cameo from those characters for now, but if you want to see the "Adventures" gang in all of their wacky glory, simply pick up Sonic Legacy Series #1!

I'll continue reading Sonic the Hedgehog/Universe/Mega Man! Can't wait till the next issues! Long live the Eggman Empire!

From,
S.R.B
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

The Eggman Empire thanks you!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Hello there!

Hiya!

(Shhh, don't tell my mom I'm up! I'm supposed to be sleeping, but who needs sleep when you have Sonic?)

oops, sorry - hi!

Hi! Victoria here, and I just want to say: YOUR COMIC IS AWESOME. The art, storyline, and everything else is perfecto :D

Thanks mucho!

Thanks to you guys, I've made my own Sonic Comics! They're known as S.U.A, which stands for Sonic Ultimate Adventure. My friends actually like my comics, which is cool. So, like everyone else I have questions!

1) How old is Tails? I remember Tails once saying he was eleven.

Yes he's pretty much eleven, give or take.

2) How did Tails' parents end up in that one zone? (The one where the Xorda and the Black Arms were fighting).

Well that wasn't so much a "zone" as it was outer space. There's this alien species called the BEM that abducted Amadeus and Rosemary Prower and brought them to their home world called Argentium where they lived for a good, long while.

3) Will there be more 25 years later stories? That'd be cool.

Did you check out "30 Years Later" over in Sonic Universe? Order today @ archiecomics.com or wait until 2012 and pick up the graphic novel! Aaaaawwww Yeeeeaaa!

So it's way past my bedtime. I need to get some sleep. But peace out!

Yours Truly,
Victoria J.
from South Carolina

Get to sleep!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Hello my name is Timon B.! You might have known me because I send you quite a few letters. I was wondering: is Sonic going to battle the Rogues anytime soon?

Sincerely,
Timon B.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

P.S. Happy birthday, Sonic!

Thanks for writing in, Timon! Repeatedly! :) Sonic vs. The Babylon Rogues, eh? Well, Timon, you're in luck! The Babylon Rogues are getting their very own story arc over in Sonic Universe and a certain blue hedgehog may be the only thing standing in their way! Subscribe to Sonic Universe and check out all the awesome action!

That's all for this edition of SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY, see ya next time!

SUPER SHOUT – OUTS

"I just wanna say Spaz and Tracy you guys are the best artists ever!" - Natalia R. from Florida

"Silver is my favorite character so I LOVED the Silver arc! But as for the bad guys I think Scourge is the best!" - Sasha G. from Florida

"I just finished reading Treasure Team Tango Part 3 and I have just concluded that Shadow has a crush on Blaze." - Morayo B. from Illinois

"Does Dr. Finitevus have to wear sunscreen when he goes out?" - Hanajima K. sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

"Tell Coconuts I said hi!" - Cullan C. from Montana

"Will we be seeing Steven Butler pencil more issues in the near future? I really just love his style." - Sabri H. from Australia

"Sonic has to be my absolute FAVORITE comic." - Andrea, sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL NEWS FLASH

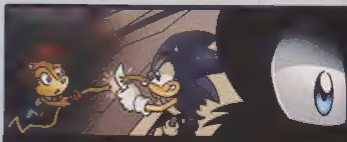
PRINCESS SALLY ACORN

SALLY'S FATE: REVEALED?!

"GENESIS" EPILOGUE TO REVEAL THE FATE OF SALLY ACORN

In Sonic #225, Sally ran around a corner and into Eggman's weapons. It seemed that Princess Sally was no more, but following her evident resurrection during the events of "Genesis," Sally's fate would seem to rest in the epilogue to the "Genesis" arc, Sonic #230. The explosion that hit Sally was big - but the real boom was the fan reaction.

Here at Archie Comics, we couldn't have imagined how big the fan reaction would be! Our e-mails and mailboxes blew up. There were in-depth Youtube reactions and break-downs. The forums were a war zone! Sally fans and haters alike weighed in on this turn of events - some happy, some confused, some were downright enraged ... but everyone was dying to find out what happened next!



SALLY REGAINS HER MEMORIES IN STH#228

SONIC GENERATIONS

NEW GAME BLASTS TO THE PAST!

CLASSIC SONIC AND MODERN SONIC TEAM UP IN "SONIC GENERATIONS"

In the upcoming "Sonic Generations" game Sonic the Hedgehog is thrown into the past and meets his "Classic Sonic" counterpart from the original "Sega Genesis" games! The two Sonics race across some of the most memorable zones in Sonic history, like the iconic Green Hill and Chemical Plant Zones from Sonic the Hedgehog 1 & 2. Each zone is re-imagined and rendered in glorious HD resolutions (PS3 & XBOX 360 versions) and come from the Classic Genesis, Dreamcast, and modern eras of Sonic History. Play as "Classic Sonic," equipped with his traditional spin jump and spin dash with a focus on 2D precision platforming. Take speed to the next level with "Modern Sonic," complete with Sonic Boost, Quick Step, and Drifting abilities in levels that are a blend of 2D and 3D environments! "Sonic Generations" will be available this November for the PS3, XBOX360, and Nintendo 3DS!

"BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!"
Armed with vicious badniks and deadly booby traps, Eggman's new flying fortress, the DEATH EGG 2, unleashed its devastating force on Sally in STH#225

Princess Sally Alicia Acorn was raised by her father, King Maximillian. When the evil Dr. Robotnik launched his assault on the kingdom, Sally left her life of royalty to found the Freedom Fighters with Sonic the Hedgehog. Together, they would lead their team to the heights of victory and the lows of heart-break. In times of peace, she found that violence had forced her to become something she didn't want to be, a leader of soldiers. Sally also found love with Sonic the Hedgehog, and though their relationship had a rocky start, the young couple was finally on the right track to live happily ever after. Then Eggman returned and Sonic was crushed to have Sally ripped away from him.

Sally's demise was only ONE of the shockers to come from Sonic the Hedgehog #225. Almost at exactly the same time as Sally's "accident," Eggman activated "Operation: Clean Sweep," recreating the world to a place that would be helpless to defend against his total and complete domination! Sonic found himself in this different reality, with no memory of where he came from. Sally too, despite her seemingly conclusive end, was also re-awakened in this new world!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #230 COVER

With Genesis wrapping up and Sonic and Sally's memories returning, fans have been asking, "what now?" If they return to the world they came from, will either Sonic or Sally still remember their lives as Mobius' first couple? Will Sally's fate at the hands of Eggman's weapons still be sealed? As one truly awesome fan said in a letter sent to us, in a parody of one of the great songs of the 80's, "Sally are you ok? Are you ok? Are you ok, Sally?" A clue may be found in Sally's inclusion to the Sonic #230 cover.

One thing's for sure: all will be revealed in Sonic #230, the epilogue to the "Genesis" Saga!

TRACES OF TRACY

TRACY YARDLEY!

Tracy Yardley! is no stranger to Sonic, having drawn the blue blur for over six years. In Sonic Universe #33, he branches into writing when the four-issue "Babylon Rising" arc debuts!

Not one for sleeping, apparently, Tracy Yardley! will also be pencilling the story!

While Tracy is a new addition to the Sonic Universe writing team, this is not Tracy's writing debut - he wrote stories for the Sonic X spin-off series!

"Babylon Rising" brings a lot to be excited about! We'll be seeing the return of the Babylon Rogues! Last seen in "Treasure Team Tango" (SU #21-24), the treacherous trio are on the hunt for what Jet believes to be the greatest treasure of all time ... and the Battle Bird Armada, lead by Battlekukku XV might just agree with their former soldiers!

THE BABYLON ROGUES ARE BACK!
Jet is hot on the trail of the fabled Babylon Garden

THE SONIC GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY JUST GOT A LOT BIGGER!

YOUR GUIDE TO THE LATEST SONIC GRAPHIC NOVELS!

SONIC ARCHIVES VOL 16

The best-selling SONIC ARCHIVES graphic novel series continues! The hunt for the evil Ixis Naugus goes into full swing as Sonic and his best friend Tails continue the World Tour Saga! Can the power of friendship overrule the wills of interdimensional machine-gods? What is the sinister secret of Sand Blast City? And are those duck-bill platypus warriors riding crocodiles?! You won't want to miss all of the first time appearances of characters like the Iron King and Queen, Jack Rabbit and his Sand Blast Freedom Fighters, and the debut of the Secret Service! Collects SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #59-62 featuring digitally re-mastered art and special features!

SONIC UNIVERSE VOL 1

Enter the SONIC UNIVERSE with the first-ever graphic novel collection of the new hit comic series! SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG, the dark and grim Ultimate Lifeform, embarks on his first mission for the Guardian Units of the Nation! He will travel across time and space, fighting deadly killer robots and facing down beings of god-like power! SONIC UNIVERSE VOL. 1 collects the entire "Shadow Saga" storyline from Sonic Universe #1-4 plus exclusive sketches and special features!

SONIC SELECT BOOK 4

This fourth volume of the popular Sonic Select series collects for the first time the alternate-reality madness of the 'Zone Wars' saga from the Sonic the Hedgehog Super Special comic books plus the entire island adventure from the Sonic Blast Special! Sonic's in for more than a world of trouble as he tackles the biggest baddies the multiverse has to offer. It's a case of mistaken identity as the devious Dr. Eggman and Dimitri swap the minds of Sonic and Knuckles… a 'Crisis of Infinite Sonics!'

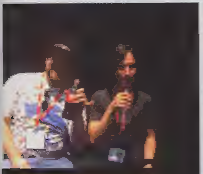
KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL 1

Knuckles investigates the mysteries of his origins and the wonders of the Floating Island and tries to solve the riddle of Archimedes! Brace for the harrowing adventure as Knuckles comes face to face with the dreaded Dark Legion and has his first encounter with Enerjak. Collects Sonic's Friendly Nemesis: Knuckles #1-3 and Knuckles the Echidna #1-3.

WHERE IS BIVALVE?!

Everyone's favorite Mobian clam, Bivalve, has been making appearances in Sonic the Hedgehog and Sonic Universe for over a year now! See if YOU can spot all the "Hidden Bivalves"!

SAN DIEGO COMIC CON - 2011 -



WRITER IAN FLYNN & ARTIST BEN BATES

It's the biggest event of the year in comics, and one of the biggest pop-culture events in the whole world! It's San Diego Comic Con and this year the Sonic the Hedgehog comics team was there! Writer Ian Flynn and artist Ben Bates were in attendance, signing comics, drawing sketches and meeting fans of the books! This was Ian and Ben's first SDCC appearance!

Also new to the show this year was the debut of the Sonic the Hedgehog #226 Convention Exclusive variant cover - a first for not only the Sonic the Hedgehog comic series, but for Archie Comics! The convention cover was such a hit that a special Sonic the Hedgehog #229 convention cover will be debuting at New York Comic Con in October of 2011, so East Coast Sonic fans can get their hands on some exclusives too!

A BIG thanks to SEGA for donating the use of two Sonic Generations game kiosks for the Archie booth! Everyone had a fantastic time at the show and Archie Comics hopes to see everyone again next year!

ARTIST BEN BATES

THE TOP 5 UNDERDOGS

UNEXPECTED HEROES & VILLAINS EDITION!

1 ANTOINE D'COOLETTE

In the world of "Genesis," Antoine has gone back to the way he once was. Skittish and cowardly, he tags along with Sally and Boomer. His heart is in the right place - he just needs to find a spine to go with it.

2 SNIVELY ROBOTNIK

Every time Snively thinks he's got a handle on the situation, it blows up in his face! But that doesn't stop the little guy from trying, whether it's usurping Eggman with the Iron Queen, or temporarily joining the Freedom Fighters! No joke!

3 BIVALVE

The clam, the myth, the legend - Bivalve and his teammates in the Forty Fathom Freedom Fighters have had some victories, but haven't been heard from in some time! They may be gone for now, but you can bet that this cataclysmic clam will come back a-swingin'!

4 SLEUTH DAWG

It wouldn't be a list of underdogs without an actual DOG on it, and what better dog than Sleuth Doggy Dawg, who always manages to get his canine behind handed to him by the FF! Maybe this old dog needs to get taught a new trick?

5 TOMMY TURTLE

We can rebuild him! We have the continuity! Poor Tommy the Turtle never caught a break, but without Tommy, the nanites that eventually built New Mobotropolis may never have been fully realized!

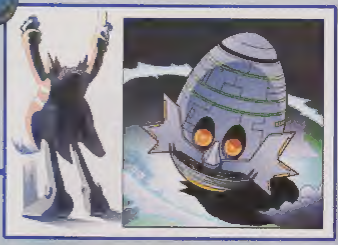
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

SONIC: GENESIS PART ONE

PREVIOUSLY...

WHEN DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG CAUSED THE EVIL DR. EGGMAN TO LOSE HIS MIND, SONIC THOUGHT HIS TROUBLES WERE OVER! NOT SO! THE EVIL WIZARD IXIS NAUGUS HAD RETURNED AND CLAIMED THE THRONE OF ACORN AS HIS OWN! BUT BEFORE THE BATTLE COULD BEGIN...

...THE DEATH EGG APPEARED! EGGMAN HAD RETURNED WITH HIS MOST DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON YET, AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS QUICKLY SCRAMBLED TO TAKE IT DOWN!

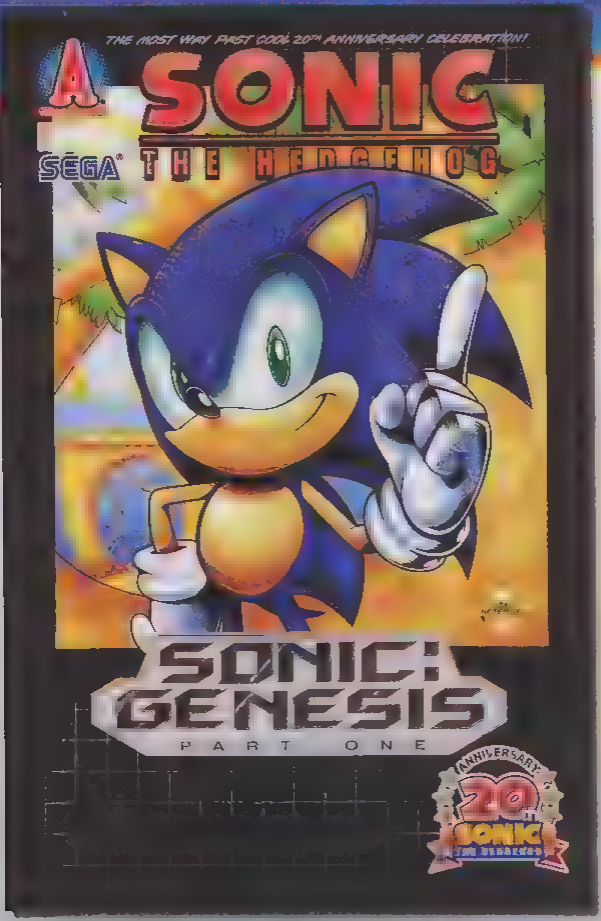


THE ASSAULT WAS LEAD BY SONIC AND SALLY, WHO HAD JUST REKINDLED THEIR ROMANCE. AS THE FIRST COUPLE OF MOBIUS BATTLED, SALLY WAS SHOT, AND EGGMAN SET "OPERATION: CLEAN SWEEP" INTO MOTION!

THEN THE WORLD TURNED TO WHITE...

DID YOU KNOW...

The *Death Egg* is a staple of the Sonic the Hedgehog games, first appearing at the end of *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* for the Sega Genesis game system. In the comics, the *Death Egg* first appeared in the *Sonic Quest* mini-series in the fall of 1996. The *Death Egg* that mounted Eggman's attack on Mobius in *Sonic the Hedgehog #225* is considered the *Death Egg Mark 2*.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– Comics Bulletin on Sonic #225 and "Sonic Genesis"

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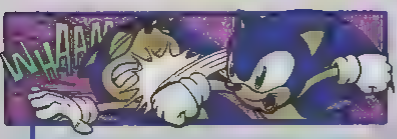
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE

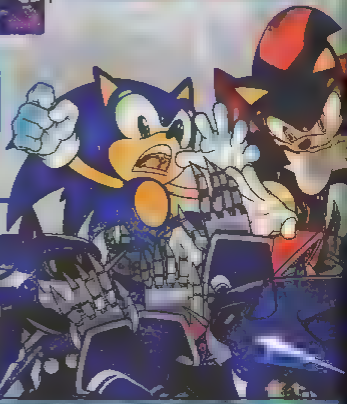
BIRTHDAY BASH PARTS 1 & 2

PREVIOUSLY...

A THORN IN THE SIDE OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG FOR QUITE SOME TIME, EVIL SONIC HAILS FROM A WORLD WHERE HEROES ARE VILLAINS, VILLAINS ARE HEROES AND EVERYTHING ISN'T WHAT IT SHOULD BE! SINCE "EVIL SONIC" AND THE SONIC OF MOBIUS LOOK SO SIMILAR, IT WASN'T ALL THAT TOUGH TO HATCH HIS MOST DESTRUCTIVE SCHEME YET: TO SWITCH PLACES



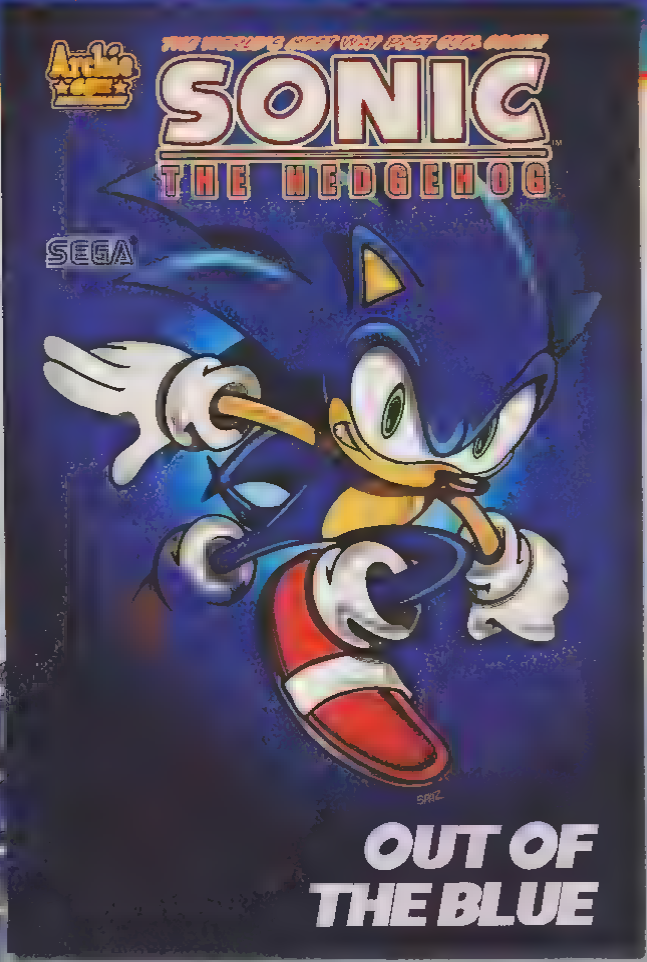
EVIL SONIC DID SOME DAMAGE TO THE REAL SONIC'S REPUTATION HERE ON MOBIUS, BUT BEFORE LONG HIS RUSE WAS DISCOVERED AND EVIL SONIC WAS SENT PACKING!



WITH HIS EVIL DOUBLE LONG GONE, SONIC RETURNED TO BUSINESS AS USUAL - THIS TIME FIGHTING OFF A HORDE OF METAL SONIC TROOPERS WITH THE HELP OF THE MYSTERIOUS SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG. BUT EVIL SONIC IS STILL OUT THERE, WAITING TO MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE, AND THIS TIME

OUR HERO HAS NO IDEA WHAT HE'S IN FOR!

DID YOU KNOW...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SONIC SUPER SPECIAL CHARACTER PROFILE:

THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The Freedom Fighters were a band of young and talented children hidden in the secret village of Knothole. They were inspired by the Original Freedom Fighters and carried on in their stead. Their early adventures were like grand games, despite being perilous at times.

ORIGINAL TEAM ROSTER:

Sonic the Hedgehog – A brash show-off who was more interested in having fun than being a fighter, but who quickly learned the importance of his friends and their mission.

"SONIC KIDS"!

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE ALSO CHILDHOOD FRIENDS

Princess Sally Acorn – The crown princess and heir apparent to the Kingdom of Acorn. She was the leader from the start and the driving force behind the team.

Antoine D'Coolette – With his family claimed by Dr. Robotnik's Coup d'Etat, the jittery boy soldier had something to prove – to himself, to his friends, and to his first crush (the princess).

Rotor "Boomer" Walrus – A budding inventor whose gadgets helped the child warriors survive and escape many of their early perils.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

PROFILES STATS:

First Appearance:
Sonic the Hedgehog Minise

FREEDOM HQ

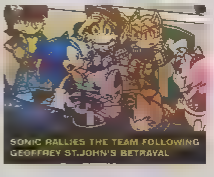
NEAR THE RUINS OF KNOTHOLE, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS FORGED A NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS, DUBBED "FREEDOM HQ"

CURRENT TEAM ROSTER:

Sonic the Hedgehog – As brash as ever Sonic has grown into a true and noble hero (despite the ego)

Miles "Tails" Prower – A junior member who has proved himself time and again, earning his place as a full-fledged member

Amy Rose – Like Tails, Amy has worked hard to prove her worth to the team. Of all the members, she's the most recent official member



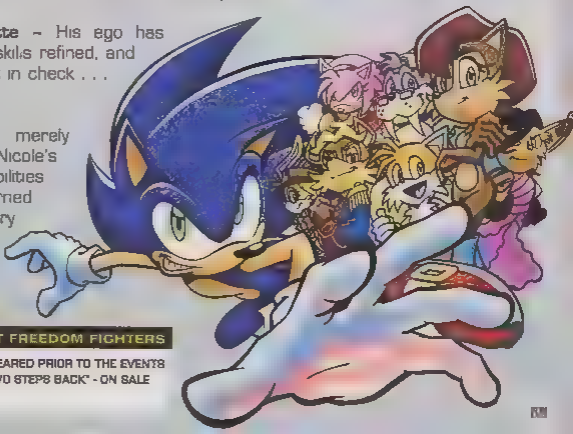
SONIC RALLIES THE TEAM FOLLOWING GEOFFREY ST.JOHN'S BETRAYAL

Princess Sally Acorn – Although having been called away on royal duty in the past, Sally remains the active field leader

Bunnie "Rabbot" D'Coolette – Half-roboticized by Dr Robotnik and rescued by Sonic, she uses her incredible bionic abilities to provide the team with a heavy-hitter

Antoine D'Coolette – His ego has been tamed, his skills refined, and his cowardice put in check . . . mostly

Nicole – Once merely Sally's computer, Nicole's growth in her abilities and range have earned her an honorary spot on the team



THE CURRENT FREEDOM FIGHTERS

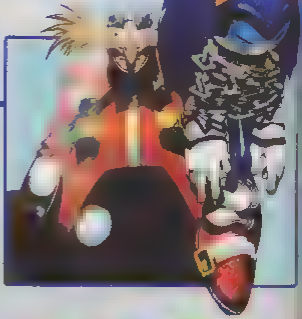
THE TEAM AS IT APPEARED PRIOR TO THE EVENTS OF SONIC #230 "...TWO STEPS BACK" - ON SALE THIS NOVEMBER

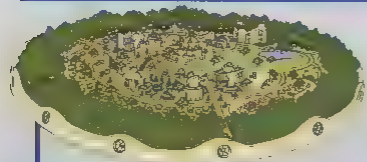
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

THE EGGMAN WAR

PREVIOUSLY...

AFTER AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT ON SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, EGGMAN HAD FINALLY DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE. HE WON. KNOTHOLE WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND. THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE CHAOTIX WERE KIDNAPPED AND SONIC AND TAILS WERE LEFT IN THE RUBBLE. SONIC WAS DOWN, BUT HE WASN'T OUT!

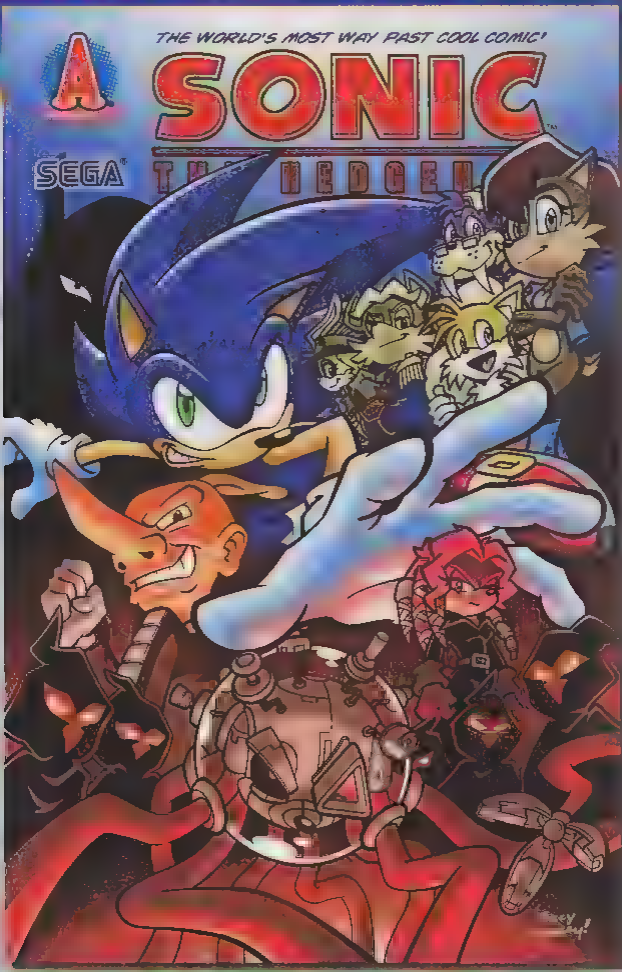




FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL COUNTER-ASSAULT SONIC FREED HIS FRIENDS! MEANWHILE, THE EFFS AND "NICOLE" HAD CONSTRUCTED A NEW NANITE CITY FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE IN LEAVING ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO

GET PAYBACK! WITH A NEW HOME AND RENEWED PURPOSE, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE CHAOTIX BEGAN THE ULTIMATE ASSAULT ON THE EGGMAN EMPIRE. AFTER SEVERAL HARD-FOUGHT victories, OUR HEROES ARE READY TO LAUNCH THE CAMPAIGN THAT THEY HOPE WILL BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE **EGGMAN WAR...**

DID YOU KNOW...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SONIC
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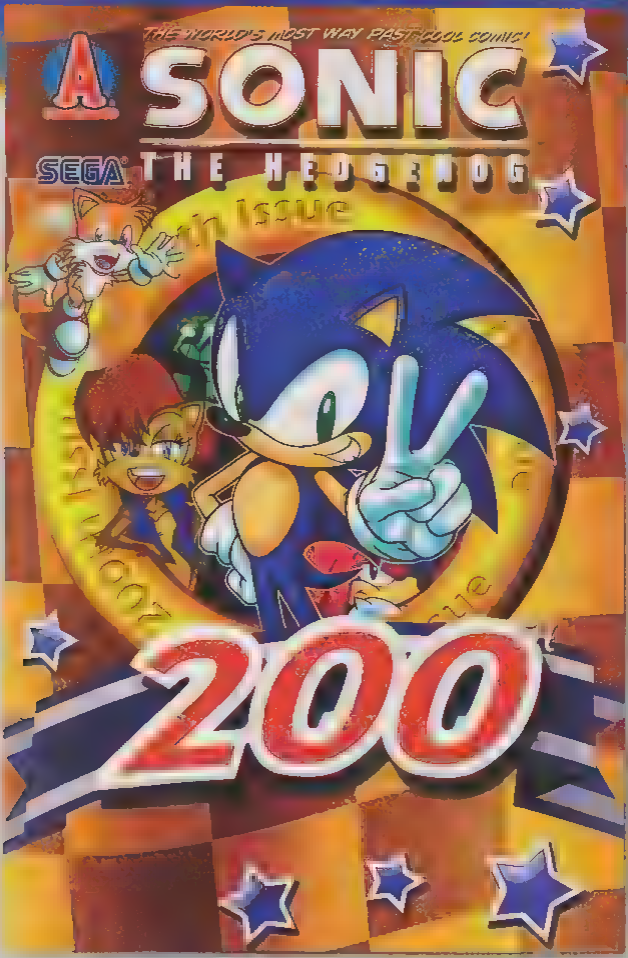
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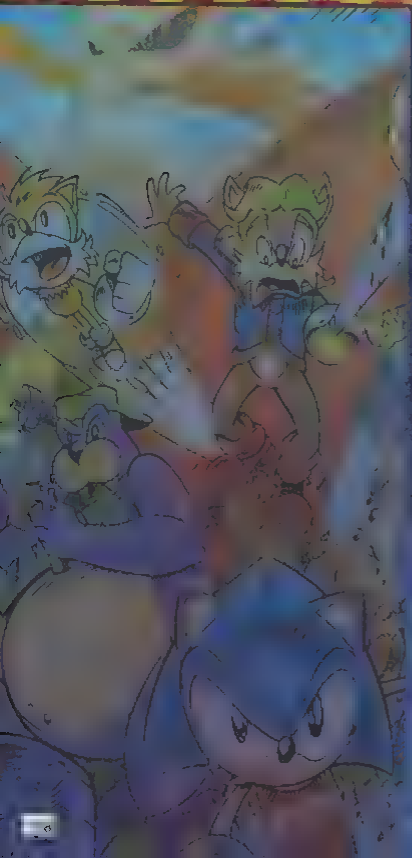


BLAST TO THE PAST WITH SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

TAKE A STEP BACK INTO THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE WORLD'S MOST SUCESSFUL VIDEO GAME-BASED COMIC!

THIS ALL-NEW TIMELINE FEATURE BEGINS AT THE DAWN OF THE PLANET MOBIUS, AND WILL SHOW YOU JUST HOW THE [illegible] OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG COMICS CAME TO BE!

KEEP UP THE PACE AND DON'T LOOK BACK!

HERE WE GO!

[illegible]

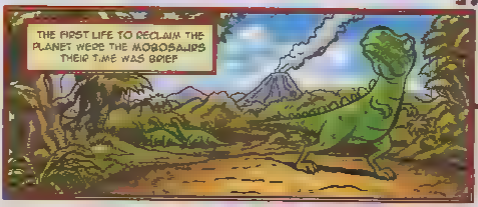
PENCILS: JAMA[illegible]
INKS: JIM A[illegible]
COLORS [illegible]

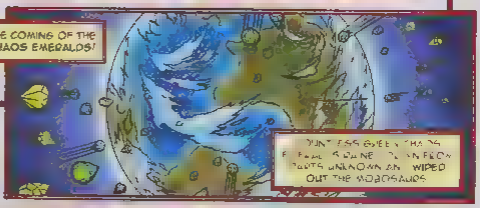
MOBIUS TIMELINE

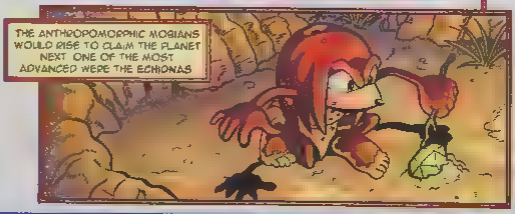
VOL. I THE GENE BOMB

MOBIUS TIMELINE

ACT 2 THE FALL OF THE DINOSAURS

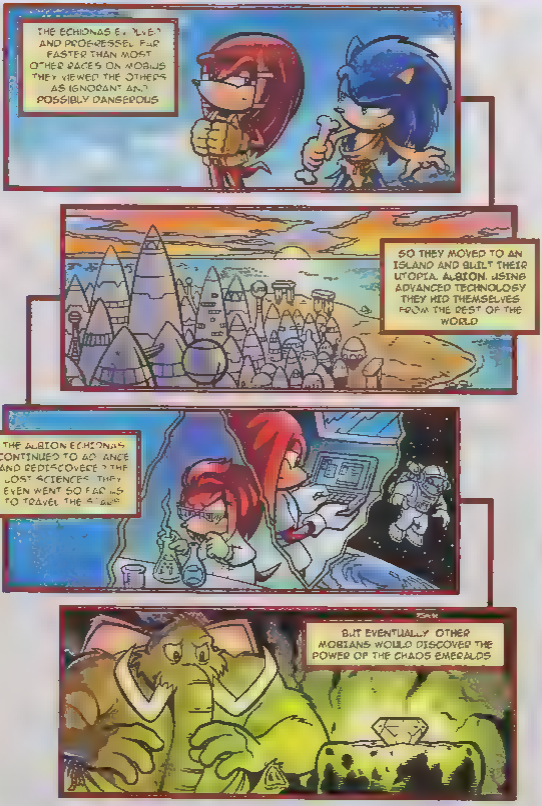




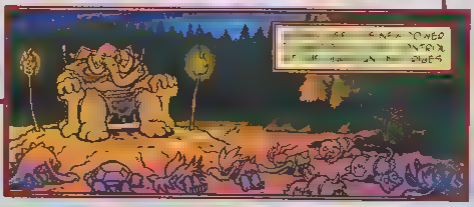


MOBIUS TIMELINE

ACT 3 THE RISE OF ALBION



MOGUL, A SIMPLE HUNTER BECAME FUSED WITH A CHAOS EMERALD THAT GAVE HIM AMAZING POWERS.

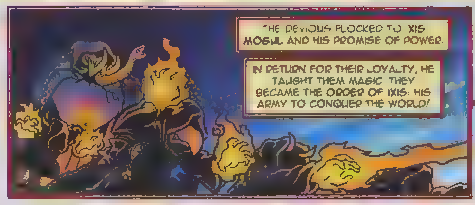


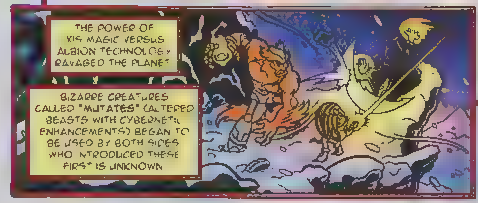
BUT MOGUL WAS ENOUGH OF HIS FULL POWER AND HIS CRUEL REIGN WAS QUICKLY OVERTHROWN. HE HAD REALIZED HIS LIMITATIONS.

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS HE STUDIED HIS POWERS AND LEARNED TO CONTROL THE ELEMENTS.
HE INVENTED CRYSTALLINE MAGIC. HE PREPARED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.

MOBIUS TIMELINE

ACT 5 THE FORGOTTEN WARS





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SONIC UNIVERSE 34

SONIC UNIVERSE #34

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SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

INTERVIEW WITH - IAN FLYNN - WRITER -

SSSM: Ian, you've been writing Sonic comics for over 5 years now - when did you decide that you wanted to be a comic book writer and how did it come about?

IF: I've always been a story-teller, and I've been making comics since I could hold a crayon in my hand. I focused on becoming a real comic writer right when I started university and began pursuing my English degree. I wrote improvised scripts, got letters of recommendation, and kept applying to Archie for four years while in school. Just before I graduated, then-editor Mike Pellerito gave me my first shot at working in comics. I started off with data gathering and smaller assignments as he taught me the ropes and I eventually worked my way to where I am today.

SSSM: Your writing style puts an emphasis on character, who's your favorite character to write? Are there any characters you have trouble writing?

IF: It's hard to pick! I love writing Sonic because he's always so smooth, heroic, and knows the right thing to say. I love writing the villains, like Drs. Eggman and Finitevus, because they get such great, chilling lines. And when I want to be silly, Bean the Duck or Marine the Raccoon allow me to let loose. I guess the hardest characters to write might be the ones with accents, like Antoine or Bunnie. It can be a tricky balancing act deciding how much accent to convey versus keeping their dialogue easy to read. That, and I don't know a word of French, so Antoine can be problematic sometimes.

SSSM: Can you tell us a little bit about what goes into planning a "Sonic Universe" arc? What's been your favorite arc to write so far? Any teases for future issues?

IF: Part of it is "who could carry a cool story?" Another is "how would this work with the main book?" When we find a story that's both engaging and adds to the greater Sonic universe (har har) we know we have a winner. It's really hard to pick which arc is my favorite. "The Return," Knuckles's arc, had the showdown with Dr. Finitevus that I'd been building towards since "Energjak Reborn," "Journey to the East" let us learn so much cool stuff about the Dragon Kingdom. "Treasure Team Tango" was simply tons of fun.

And the recent Scourge arc, "Lock Down," came together really nicely. How can I choose?!

As for the future, there's a lot of villainy coming up. Tracy Yardley is doing a fantastic arc about the Babylon Rogues. After that we've got even more baddies taking the focus. Then we'll get back to the heroes for one story fans have been clamoring for and one that will surprise a lot of fans.

SSSM: Who are your influences as a writer?

IF: Almost too many to list! Just off the top of my head: Shakespeare, Stephen Crane, Kurt Vonnegut, E. E. Cummings, Chris Claremont, Robert Kirkman, Brian M. Bendis, Mark Miller, Dr. Seuss, Jeff Smith, Don Rosa and so many more.

DID YOU KNOW... [illegible]

SSSM: Finally, there's been a lot of controversy surrounding the fate of Sally Acorn after the dramatic events of Sonic the Hedgehog #225 and "Genesis." Can you tell us anything about how this story came about? Any teases you can offer in regard to your plans for Sally?

IF: I can't get into it too deeply yet since Sally's fate is going to be a major part of the comics for a long time to come. I can say that it's part of a larger thematic shift for the comic. The comic has been running in a cycle since the very beginning where our heroes reach a level of success, suffer a great loss, and then rise to the top again.

When the comic started, they were refugees and war orphans in the forest. They defeated Dr. Robotnik and reclaimed their home city. Then they lost all that and were forced back into the forest. From there they built a new kingdom and broke Dr. Eggman's powerbase. The most recent exchange was in STH#175 when Dr. Eggman razed Knothole City, only for Sonic to completely defeat him in STH#200.

The cycle is beginning again, and we're going to see if Sonic and the Freedom Fighters can come back from this one. It's not going to be easy, and Sally will be a central, almost symbolic presence throughout the story arc.

As I like to tease: Yoooooooou'll see!

SUPER SELECTS

OUR TOP 5 FAVORITE MOMENTS WRITTEN BY IAN!

1 STH 175

The Ultimate Showdown between Sonic & Eggman!

The village of Knothole: destroyed. The Freedom Fighters: captured. For the first time in the comics, our hero truly met his match!

2 STH 160

A Birthday Bash!

There was plenty of chaos to go around when Sonic celebrated his 15th Anniversary! This story also brought us Bean the Duck and the villainous SCOURGE!

3 SU 1

CROSSOVER TIME!

When Sonic X ended and the new "Sonic Universe" title began, Shadow and Metal Sonic found themselves battling across three dimensions and three different Sonic comic titles! Awesome!

4 SU 5-8

Forward to the Future!

The "Mobius: XYL" storyline is always popular, but this time we got Future Freedom Fighters, the return of Silver, and a wild battle with TIKHAOS!

5 STH 225

The Death Egg Strikes!

The kick-off to Sonic's 20th Anniversary celebration and the lead-in to "Sonic: Genesis", STH#225 turned into the comics' biggest and most controversial issue ever!

NEXT TIME IN... SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

THE ADVENTURE IS JUST BEGINNING!

Next issue, the SONIC SUPER SPECIAL Magazine takes a look back at the game that changed the face of the Sonic the Hedgehog franchise - Sonic Adventure!

We also continue the all-new Timeline feature, an interview with writer/artist Tracy Yardley!, news, letters and tons of additional bonus features!

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